

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SY-04 NEA-09 IO-10 ACDA-05

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R 281410Z JNA 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3107

USCINCEUR

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF ASMARA 93

1. (LOU) THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF 26 JAN REPORTED THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO POLICEMEN FROM THE ASMARA TRAFFIC OFFICE ON 24 JAN 75. LOCAL SOURCES REPORT THAT THE ABDUCTION, WHICH OCCURRED AT LUNCH TIME, WAS STAGED BY ONE OF THE POLICEMEN, WHO TOOK SEVERAL WEAPONS, AMMO, AND RADIOS WITH HIM.

2. (U) THE ERITREAN RELIEF AND REGABILITATION COMMITTEE, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, WAS NATIONALIZED EFFECTIVE 25 JAN 75. THE CHANGE WAS A RESULT OF A VISIT BY A REP FROM NATIONAL R&R COMMISSION, WHO ORDERED PROGRAM TO BE TRANSFERRED TO GOVT COMMITTEE.

THE ERITREAN R&R COMMITTEE HAD RESOURCES OF ETH \$500,000, POWDERED MILK, AND 30,000 QUINTALS OF WHEAT RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM CANADA. THE R&R PROGRAM WILL BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ERITREAN ADMINISTRATION. SOME MEMBERS OF THE ERITREAN R&R COMMITTEE DOUBT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE

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GOVT PROGRAM, AND ARE TRYING TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES
BEFORE TRANSFERRING THEM TO THE GOVT PROGRAM.

3. (LOU) THE BODY OF A COMMANDO POLICEMAN WAS FOUND ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF ASMARA ON 27 JAN. IT IS REPORTED HE WAS
LAST SEEN IN THE COMPANY OF ARMY TROOPS ON 25 JAN.

4. (LOU) AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT INDICATES THAT THE PROPERTY
OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF OF AMBA DERHO, 11 KMS FROM ASMARA ON
KEREN ROAD, WAS SEIZED BY THE ELF. HE WAS CHARGED WITH
ILLEGALLY ENRICHING HIMSELF. THE CHIEF'S BROTHER THEN HIRED
TIGREANS TO POISON THE VILLAGE WELLS. THEY WERE CAUGHT BEFORE
THE PLOT WAS CARRIED OUT.

5. (LOU) COMMENT: THERE REMAINS SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT
WARFARE MAY BE AVOIDED IN ERITREA. THE ELF/PLF ARE RELUCTANT TO
ATTACK BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF REPRISALS AGAINST CIVILIANS.
THE ARMY TROOPS IN ASMARA SHOW NO SIGN OF PREPARING FOR A CAMPAIGN.
THE DIRG'S TALK OF USING FORCE MAY ONLY BE A SCHOOLBOY BLUFF.
PERRY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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